



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC REPLACES OUTMODED LONG-DISTANCE RULES WITH NEW PROTECTIONS FOR CONSUMERS

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today establishes a new framework to govern the provision of in-region, long distance services by the Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) and their independent incumbent local exchange carrier (incumbent LEC) affiliates. The old framework included requirements that the BOCs separate their local telephone and long distance operations, which is at odds with a market environment where local and long distance services increasingly are marketed and provided on a bundled basis. The new framework replaces those more burdensome regulations with less intrusive measures that protect important customer interests while allowing the BOCs and their independent incumbent LEC affiliates to respond to marketplace demands efficiently and effectively.

In particular, in order to protect consumers who make relatively few long-distance calls, the BOCs have committed to offer special rate plans tailored to those consumers for three years. The BOCs also have committed to provide subscribers to bundled single-rate local/long distance plans adequate information regarding their monthly usage in order to ensure such consumers can make informed choices concerning their options for making long distance calls. The Commission adopted these commitments as conditions of the new regulatory framework.

The new framework renders moot much of a petition for forbearance filed by AT&T Corp.

Action by the Commission in WC Docket Nos. 02-112, 00-175, 06-120, August 30, 2007, by Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 07-159). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Tate and McDowell, with Commissioners Copps and Adelstein concurring in part and dissenting in part. Separate statements issued by Commissioners Copps and Adelstein, Commissioner Tate, and Commissioner McDowell.

Action by the Commission in WC Docket No. 06-120, August 30, 2007, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 07-160). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate and McDowell. Separate statement issued by Commissioner McDowell.

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